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Unemployment and Trade Unions. By CYRIL JACKSON. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1910. 8vo, pp. xiii+92.

In this study Mr. Jackson presents a plan for the immediate relief of the unemployed in Great Britain derived from his many years of investigation while a member of the Poor Law Commission and other similar bodies. State relief works and state labor exchanges having failed, he advocates governmental co-operation with trade union exchanges and the granting of subsidies for the aid and extension of union unemployment insurance. By persuasion and example the state should obtain from employers a more general distribution of work in times of depression. Finally, by prohibition of work for those under fifteen, by continuation schools, and by two years of military training boys should be prevented from entering unskilled trades. Since the author admits (p. 86) that co-operation with trade unions is impossible if these organizations continue their political activity this part of his plan has, under present conditions, little practical value. The need of better labor exchanges and the value of continuation schools are, however, made quite apparent by the citation of many concrete cases and the discussion of these two subjects is easily the most instructive part of the book.

The History of the Telephone. By HERBERT N. CASSON. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1910. 8vo, pp. vii+315. \$1.50 net.

Instead of being "The History of the Telephone" this book is really a history of the Bell Telephone and of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company. The author has given a very readable and interesting account of the invention of the telephone by Mr. Bell, his troubles in getting his invention introduced for practical purposes, and the formation and consequent history of the "Bell Company." He has even attempted to forecast the future of the telephone industry. But he has failed to give the "Independents" the credit to which they are entitled for their aid in the rapid development of the telephone industry since 1895, both by inventions and the actual building of lines.

Great Cities in America. By DELOS F. WILCOX, PH.D. New York: Macmillan, 1910. 12mo, pp. vi+426. \$1.25 net.

The writer of this excellent treatment of the history, development, and problems of a number of cities in the United States is deeply conscious of the immense importance of "the problem of the great cities." "The city," he says, "is at once the parent and child of every citizen." How necessary it becomes, then, that the city should be brought to the highest possible degree of excellence!

Dr. Wilcox considers six typical American cities: Washington—"the Capital City; unique in having no municipal electorate"; New York—"the world's metropolis of wealth and extravagance"; Chicago—"the newest of the world's great cities; Philadelphia—"the city of Brotherly Love," "corrupt but contented"; St. Louis—"the German-American city"; and Boston—"the city where the culture and conservatism of New England join hand in hand with municipal extravagance."

Instead of following the customary method of discussing the government of America's great cities by topics, the author has dealt with each city separately, devoting a chapter to its government and special needs. A short review of the city's history and government is followed in each case by a study of the various phases of civic activity, and an able presentation of special municipal problems, arranged under separate headings, thus furnishing easy access for comparative study.

Dr. Wilcox concludes his book with the following significant statement: "The central and all-important problem of the great cities is the problem of the budget—how to spend honestly, liberally, efficiently, and promptly for the protection of life, health, and property and for the advancement of civilization—and how to levy for these expenditures upon the advantage fund created by the community life in such a manner that taxation shall not breed inequality, injustice, and civic disloyalty."

Historical Origins of Imperial Federation. By E. ARMA SMILLIE, M.A.
Montreal: Mitchell & Wilson, 1910. 4to, pp. 61.

The author has made a comparative historical and political study of the schemes advanced between 1754 and 1867, looking to a reconstruction of the relation between Great Britain and her colonies. After a brief introductory reference to several proposals prior to the Albany plan of union in 1754, she has outlined the various schemes, classifying them in periods of chronological sequence. From 1754 to the American Revolution a number of proposals were made by writers and politicians on both sides of the Atlantic. Between 1774 and 1824, the schemes were almost entirely Canadian in origin. The third period commences about 1824, and ends with Lord Durham's report of 1836, in which he suggested the legislative union not only of the two Canadas, but of all the provinces in British North America. Subsequent to this we find a number of proposals from various sources, leading up to confederation in 1867. A short bibliography of the subject is appended. The study shows unusual merit, careful research, and excellent composition. Unfortunately, however, space limitations have confined the author to a purely historical outline of a series of proposals, and have restrained her from a consideration of the economic and other forces underlying the general movement toward imperial federation. The British North America Act of 1867 was only a step in the attainment of an ideal toward which the British Empire is consciously moving. The author has here the basis for a valuable historical and political work, and it is to be hoped she will bring her study to date, enlarge it, and as far as possible relate the general movement to the varying social and economic conditions.